

THE FUNERAL ORATIONS

The three funeral orators, Malenkov, Beria, and Molotov, stressed the continuity of the Party's control and reiterated Lenin-Stalinist doctrine that Capitalist and Socialist countries can live together in peaceful coexistence and competition with one another. They emphasized that the USSR's foreign policy would be one of peace, promised cooperation with the peoples of Communist China, the People's Democracies, and the workers of capitalist and colonial countries.

On the other hand, they called for further strengthening of the Soviet State and its armed forces, emphasizing that any attack on them would call forth a crushing rebuff. The enemy was not identified and no where in the three orations was the US or any Western nation mentioned by name. However, reference to Korea indicated no change in the Soviet intentions towards wars now going on ⁱⁿ the Far East.

Beria was the only speaker to single out and praise Malenkov's appointment as Stalin's successor.